

ORS: A Crucial DHS Agency

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Have you ever wondered why Office of Recovery Services (ORS) shares building space with your office or division? Well, wonder no more. ORS is one of the many agencies within Utah Department of Human Services (DHS) and play a crucial part in DHS' daily operations.

Child Support and Medicaid Cost Recovery are the most commonly known ORS programs and are vital supports to DHS. Going without these programs would mean heavy costs to families and DHS. When children and families receive the financial and medical support to which they are entitled, self-sufficiency and consumer quality of life is improved.

ORS strengthens families by establishing paternity; by collecting child support ORS helps ease economic instability and increases children's economic security. When ORS enforces medical support provisions insurance information is secured which permits families to have medical insurance to prevent and treat illnesses. When ORS collects from Medicaid recipients' estates, the Department is able to return Medicaid dollars which are, in a high proportion, spent on long-term care.

Although not social workers, ORS employees operate statewide and serve children and families, most often without ever meeting them in person. Much of ORS' work is performed electronically, online and via telephone. This work is essential to the Department in that ORS returns collections to Juvenile Justice Services, Division of Services for People with Disabilities, Utah State Hospital and the Division of Child and Family Services. ORS works with DHS to coordinate complexities of parentage and can agree to waive child support collections to promote family unification or ease financial hardships of the elderly or other family members. ORS' work is one of the many pieces necessary to help serve the best interests of children.

For more information about ORS, go to www.ors.utah.gov . If you are interested in viewing the national public service announcements specific to child support, go to <http://www.youtube.com/usgovacf>